

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 have been presented for examination and rejection by the Examiner. By this amendment the Applicants amended claims **1, 4, 8, 12**, and **14-16** and added new claims **17-20**. Claims **1-20** are presently pending in the application. The requisite fees for the additional claims **17-20** are enclosed. Reexamination and reconsideration of the Application as amended is requested.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out the spelling errors on page 4, line 21 and page 3 line 14 of the specification, and in claim **14**. Claim **14** and the appropriate specification paragraphs were corrected.

The Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection for the following reasons and make clarifications to the claimed invention.

35 U.S.C. §102, 103

Claims **1-6, 8, 10-12** and **14** were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rounbehler et al. (US 5,808,178). Claims **7, 9, 15** and **16** were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Rounbehler et al. in view of Haas et al. (US 6,454,939).

Claim **1** was amended to explicitly recite that the carrier is connected to the support structure of the chromatographic column assembly. As recited, the assembly comprises a support structure, and a chromatographic column mounted on the support structure. The carrier allows a user to carry the column assembly.

Rounbehler et al. describes a holder 118 having four side rails 120 connected to a pair of rings 125. The holder 118 and the chromatographic column 105 of Rounbehler et al. form a chromatographic column assembly. The side rails 120 are not connected to a support structure on which the column is mounted, as required by amended claim **1**. Moreover, the side rails 120 are designed to hold the chromatographic column in place, rather than to allow a user to carry the assembly. Thus, the side rails 120 are not carriers connected to a support structure on which the column is mounted, as required by claim **1**.

Claims **14-16** were amended to recite a strip form handle for connecting to a winding structure of a chromatographic column. Applicants respectfully submit that Rounbehler et al. do not teach or suggest a strip form handle for connecting to a winding structure on which a chromatographic column is mounted. The holder 118 of Rounbehler et al. is not a strip form handle for connecting to a winding structure on which the chromatographic column of Rounbehler et al. is mounted.

Claims **2-13** are dependent on claim **1**, and are submitted to be patentable over Rounbehler et al. for the reasons set forth above. Newly added claims **17-18** recite a chromatographic column wound around a winding structure, and a carrier attached to the winding structure, while claims **19-20** require winding a chromatographic column around a winding structure and attaching a carrier to the winding structure. Claims **17-20** are submitted to be patentable over Rounbehler et al. for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim **1**.

Applicants further submit that Rounbehler et al. do not provide a suggestion or motivation for modifying their teaching to arrive at the subject matter of the instant claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks it is believed that the subject application is now in condition for allowance. Allowance of the claims pending in the application at an early date is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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